

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the application, of which claim 1 has been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,943,203 to Wang (hereinafter "**Wang**").

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Wang discloses an electronic circuit breaker that is automatically reset only a limited number of times. After the limited number of resets, current is disabled, as described in column 11. On the other hand, the monitoring timing of the present invention, as described above, which is considerably shorter than a reset time of a breaker, can be more advantageous than the circuit breaker of Wang, thus, achieving a sure protection of the circuit. The above action of the monitoring timing of the pulse width modulation control signals, as illustrated in Fig. 2, can be compared with the prior art of Fig. 4 in order to better understand the difference between claim 1 and **Wang**.

Furthermore, **Wang** fails to disclose that the overheat protection means outputs **a source voltage having a pulse width shorter than the fix pulse width of the pulse-width modulation control signal supplied from the control means during the overheat protective operation** so that the outputting state detection means can detect the abnormality of output of the semiconductor device. This is supported by the specification on page 7, lines 7-14. In the embodiment, as illustrated in Fig. 2, the overheat state is recognized since the source voltage becomes L0 at sampling points associated with the fixed time period Ts.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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